Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth McCartney
Conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson
and Ms. Paula Boyer - April 27, 1977

TAPE #2 - SIDE 1 & 2

DODSON: Now Mrs. McCartney, you were going to tell us about the Freedom Foundation Award.

MRS. McCART: Yes, he received the Freedom Foundation Award, the Teacher's Award from Valley Forge and I'm very proud of course.

DODSON: Well, you certainly should be.

MRS. McCART: His school also received them over the couple of years because of the work that was done by many people ?

DODSON: Tell us a little bit about the award. What had particularly drawn their attention?

MR. McCART: Well, the principal was quite interested and so he got two others together ....that you'd have to work on it. And we did quite a number of things. We established for one thing a room...they finally made us one room you could use. It's not exactly a museum but something where you could collect

replicas of important documents and then we went clear on down the line to have a little bit on valley history and Mexican/Americans and you know other minority groups and so on. And then we had a couple of spectacular things. We had a young woman there who wrote a stage play ? and she was able to recruit ? teachers. Because that sort of thing I couldn't do anything at all except I run interference for them...kind of untangle the squabbles between the teachers and things but this was a very spectacular show and they put it on at you know, open houses. And we had two or three showings for the parents and of course that went well, the British interpretation headquarters and that sort of thing. And our art people prepared an impressive books and replicas of the ? and so on. I'm hoping some of the stuff in still in good repair...foundation headquarters at Valley Forge.

MRS. McCART: We saw some of it one time.

MR. McCART: But we didn't ?

DODSON: Now you were going to tell us about the house you lived in, Mr. Cortney.

MR. McCART: Well, when we first moved out there my father built the shell of the house, it was a different kind of a construction then is even permitted now. There were no studs in this house. The outside walls are 1x3 tongue and groove chicken flooring. As you can see by the picture and that held up the house, so to speak. That's enough.

DODSON: So you were holding up your house by your outside walls.

MR. McCART: Exactly. Now it was sort of braced with 2x2's set at angles but there were 2x4 studs in the whole place. Now underneath there was no foundation. They simply smoothed off the ground and took treated redwood and built a framework that would have been the foundation. And this was perfectly legal at that time. And it was so well conceived and planned and so on that the termites never did eat the redwood under pinnings.

DODSON: They usually will avoid redwood won't they?

MR. McCART: Yes, not always. It depends I guess on the redwood or on the termite but anyway that's how it works. Now, if you could turn and look across the room behind you there now, there is a

secretary...this is a piece of furniture. That thing once had a crown on it several more inches high of ornate walnut craved effect. And our room in this house we're discussing, was just 8' high. It was 8', which is the legal limit now. I mean the legal minimum. And this thing went right to two or three inches, maybe. So to put this in, this thing that we bought from Missouri we had it made, they had to take off the crown. So they put it...my father put it under the house...nice and dry under there. But thirty some years later when they moved it out...they went down to get the crown and the termite had eaten it. There was a little bit left. So this is a difference in what you could do so far as building.

DODSON: That would be a tremendous difference. Then you've got the side wall holding up the whole way to your roof, haven't you?

MR. McCART: Yes, you do. The whole thing. Now in this picture there's a little house we're building down below there. That's where the man is who raised the sweet corn. And that was the first of the seven houses ? the house in Hollywood. Now some years later this picture shows what... the plants

kind of hid the rest of the house and so on. It looked a little different.

DODSON: This is the same house?

MR. McCART: This is the house, yes.

MRS. McCART: We haven't been there a while now.

MR. McCART: The house stood until it was sold in 1947 and then the bulldozers came in and tore it down and they built office buildings ?

DODSON: I was just going to ask you how it changed to earthquakes?

MR. McCART: Oh well, it would just ride beautifully.

MRS. McCART: Oh easily.

MR. McCART: Yeah, it wouldn't bother us because if it jolts around on top, you wouldn't feel anything. So it was alright that way. Now, we came out here in 1921, you can't see any here but around the house there was 72 switches planted which became into walnut trees. And so this was where we were suppose to make money you see. And use chickens

in the meantime. Well, ? finally blew up. And then they found out the San Fernando Valley is quite as good for walnuts as it is over by Oxnard or somewhere because of the large amounts of nuts that are burning in the summertime. Well, these walnuts around this house go clear back to maybe 60 or 65 years ago. The plant does well but you don't always get a very good crop. So we had this crop of walnuts coming up, in the meantime...we just raised sort of field crops and the chickens. All around us and all over this valley for that matter there was sugar beets and baby lima beans and various vegetables for the markets and the orchards...the world's largest olive orchard up around Sylmar was still a booming concern then. And then these English walnuts and apricots and peach orchards were beginning to show up all over the place. Oranges and lemons and they had canneries in Van Nuys and San Fernando and I guess Canoga Park and maybe another one or two places. And they had several of the citrus fruit packing houses, not in Van Nuys, but at other points around up by there San Fernando...they had quite a lot of those.

MRS. McCART: They had a drying ? like Van Nuys at...? if you're at Sherman Way and Van Nuys. The Sherman

Circle...the corner where Farrell's is. That we called World Corner. There was an apricot drying ?

MR. McCART: Now some of the...there was a lady there who had buildings and so on. Tar paper stands where they could soak...could soak or smoke them to the kill the insects or so on. But some drying was done in the orchards, right out in the field. And they would hire largely whole families of Mexican or Mexican/American people to come in. The men would go out and pick and the women would cut the apricots in half and take the seeds out and put them on the trays. And the men would set the trays up out up and down the fields in the hot sun and they'd wait for them to dry. And the little children in all the fields and so on...they soon learned that this little apricot was a pretty juicy form there and it go and drink it and set it back down. I don't know if that was too widespread. But I seen it happen.

MRS. McCART: What they don't know won't hurt them.

DODSON: Since you were mentioning walnuts...did you ever pickle any walnuts?

MR. McCART: Well, I think my mother did. She was doing something to some kind of a plant all the time.

DODSON: First time I heard about that I thought somebody was telling me jokes. But it turns out it isn't.

MR. McCART: They use the undeveloped green... I know what it is but I don't think I've ever had to try it. I ate a ? in the Philippines, the semi egg bearing embryo of the duck you know but...

DODSON: I think I'd prefer the pickled walnut myself.

MR. McCART: But anyway that really worked. Then of course there were dairies all over this place. There was the great Ador Dairy out on Ventura Blvd. and up here where Panorama City is there was the Los Angeles Dairies Panorama Ranch. And then down southeast of Van Nuys a little ways there were a number of Italian people in the dairy business. Well actually Del Conte was out west and let's see Yolana and the Chase of course was not Italian, his dairy...but there were lots of dairies and chicken hatcheries.

MRS. McCART: Holloway was right here.

MR. McCART: Yeah, Burt Holloway. He ? much in Van Nuys, here's the Holloway. Somebody ought to show up after awhile. He had a fine big hatchery. Oh, I don't know how many thousands and thousands of eggs capacity. And he was selling them all over. And there was another one named ?Crackergy. And the Rous Brother business we mentioned came along. And then there was Albert Zorester. Albert Zorester was a student at Van Nuys High School when I first went there and he began making the metal hardware for chickens. Feeders and waterers and coops and all this sort of thing. He did big business then became important to the Chamber of Commerce in the west part of the valley. ? Now they were small sales. Not only was there some big trees some of the walnut people belonged to the association and some raised Sunkist oranges and all this sort of thing and sugar beets. But a lot of people were just selling at individual stands...just the produce alongside the road. And this is what my father and my mother were doing out there. And they sold walnuts and fresh peaches and other fresh fruits they had. Eggs; chickens; geese; rabbits, whatever the market would bare. You could only sell about so many with... practically went bad. So you had to have a few more things instead of raising more of the

same thing where you had some other thing like that.

DODSON: Well, they had quite a variety then that they raised.

MR. McCART: Yes, they had planted apple seedlings. They weren't too successful there but they'd spray and pray and one thing or another they could get some crops by ? and a variety of figs and a variety of peaches and so on and my mother began to make jams and jellies and preserves and so on. Now she just sort of stumbled into that because people would come to buy eggs and see her making that sort of thing, standing in the kitchen or somewhere and they'd want to buy it. So she finally got to where she was making 27 varieties. Now that might be three kinds of grapes...grape jelly and grape marmalade and grape preserves and so on. And so my father had a little sort of a shed out front and he would lock up at night. And nobody did ever have to rob that but they would keep quite a stock out there. And this went on undisturbed by the public until probably the '40s until about 1939. We came here in '21. Then the health inspectors came by one day and they said, "This is terrible. You're making that in your own kitchen.

Now, you can't do it any more but of course you could have a separate kitchen." So by this time ? he went back out there again ? and so we took the back porch which was thing in the wall about three to four feet high and there was a steam vent? so we cut it in two and we brought a gas plate out so she could cook there and put a sink in ? and ? right from there.

DODSON: I thought maybe you were going to tell us that they demanded she get a business license too or something like that.

MR. McCART: Yes, they had ? and my father bought a...what kind of steel is it. ? we still have it. And the sealer of weight ? to check in. See it was all run legitimately and they'd been legitimate up until the law changed on that. Now we raised all these kinds of things there and had a cow for our own milk. And my mother even sold cottage cheese. ? right now but it was alright then. The only thing we ever...is my father ever made it real bad move once was when the man came by and showed him how he could get rich raising ? or guinea pigs.

DODSON: Guinea pigs?

MR. McCART: Of course my father had bought livestock.

DODSON: But he didn't get rich on that?

MR. McCART: Unadvisedly...unwisely. But anyway, now it was guinea pigs to be used by laboratories or scientific experiments. And of course the laboratory needed those things in the laboratory but you know what it turned out was the big business was selling breeding stock to the farmers who didn't have anything left. And you know, who was it? The story that tells our guinea pigs keep multiplying, well they do. And so finally the problem "what are you going to do with them?" Well obviously, we weren't going to raise anymore. You stop it. You finally separate all the males from the females but still he had a considerable livestock on hand. I ? you ought to eat them. My mother said, "No," she wouldn't eat a rat. But I pointed out, there was no tail, it couldn't be a rat. And she said, "Well, it certainly isn't a pig." But my father finally got to the point where he thought maybe it was alright. We eat rabbits. We were selling rabbits to people and eating them ourselves and so on. And so finally it was agreed we would cook a guinea pig. My mother says, "I won't be here." So she left and

went down to the neighbor's house for lunch. And we cooked it up and it was really tasty you know. Well, this was really...it was a change from chicken. We didn't have much meat. We ate chicken most of the time. And so we kept on cutting down the stock now by cooking. And until finally one afternoon my daddy ? outside and in the middle of the afternoon and caught my mother with a guinea pig leg in her hand chewing on it, looking satisfied. After that, there was no argument, we went ahead and ate guinea pigs.

DODSON: I think that's the first time I've heard of anybody eating the pigs.

MR. McCART: Well, think about it.

DODSON: Well I don't know of any reason why you shouldn't.

MR. McCART: We were talking about school a while ago and the agricultural thing, I did make a note that we had a considerable little farm. And then it was right on ? between Hamlin and Gilmore.

MRS. McCART: You mean the school's.

MR. McCART: The school's farm. And now of course, Hamlin is part of the school's grounds. They closed off the street a few years ago and put buildings out there. And they had taken the...we noted they had taken the agricultural section which is still operating out on Vanowen just sort of across from the Valley Presbyterian Hospital. They call it El Rancho Five Acres. And that's a school project out there.

DODSON: Well now our college use to meet on the agricultural plot at Van Nuys High School. So I wonder if that's the same one. You see when our college was first founded we met on the agricultural plot at Van Nuys High School before we moved to our present site.

MR. McCART: I bet that was the one between Gilmore and Hamlin.

DODSON: That address sounds about right.

MR. McCART: Yeah, I just believe that's right. When we were doing this livestock business we of course we met family and so on but we met some rather interesting people once in awhile. Some the ranch individualist farmers at one time or another or

some of them were just gentlemen farmers. But the gentleman farmer we'd see maybe more often because he was the one who put the money into pedigree horses and thoroughbred livestock. Now one was Mr. Edgar Rice Burroughs. He had his home and his little farm out here on a hill. Well that was Tarzana, where it is now.

BOYER: I didn't know that.

MR. McCART: Oh yes. For a good many things. He wasn't in it of course. He had thoroughbred horses and he had Clydesdale horses. The ones you know with the hooves. He also had Berkshire hogs. They are the ones that ? it was turned up in front. And they all had pedigrees on them. So we'd go out to see the sheep ? And one time we were out there and he was showing us this particular thoroughbred horse or stallion...a beautiful animal and he was telling us about his neighbor's farm. And then he decided that that was Burrough's stock. He took an interest in his stock you see and us. And then sometimes we'd go there when he wasn't there just to compare and so on. Well anyway, he said, "I'll go up to the house and get that and why don't you come with me." And it turned out the whole book of all the livestock and records were there. Well

anyway he had a fleet of about five...I think five numbers...some beautiful light ?coup Packards. So I was the one that got to go up there to the house. On the way up I was intrigued, down on the floor, there was a device...a sort of round little thing like this with a lever in it that would record the degree or percent, whichever it was, of cline or decline if you're driving. You know, if you're going up the 16% road or down 8% or so on. Well, we got that and he came back and we got the pedigree and came back and he said, "Now, you see..." and he showed a few things and he was standing inside the fence and we're all on the outside looking in and he's noble ? would stand in there sort of nuzzling him on the shoulder. And all of a sudden the horse kicks him. He throws his head right back up. Mr. Burroughs is left with a little piece in his hand where it tore off and the horse took it away. I guess he didn't have that ? But anyway, I never got over it. And later on his son, Hobin ? went to Van Nuys High. I knew his son, of course I was born ?

DODSON: I wonder if any members of that family still live in the valley? Do you happen to know?

MR. McCART: I don't know but I remember that we saw his son-in-law, met him there. His name was ?McKiss. He was one of the first Tarzan's in ? then his son-in-law ? And I think that he is in the southern California ? I saw little articles about Tarzan's and he was one. I don't believe he lived in Tarzana, however. Now there was another little incident I remember. The Gurnsey Association was having a great meet, now the Ador Dairy had Guernsey cattle, a whole line of them. But they also had a line of a grade...? Holstein ? and then they mixed the milk and so on. Well anyway, the Guernsey Association though was having a big meet at the Grant Rancho. Now it's out here near Gerard, and Gerard is now Woodland Hills. And it's...I think it's on Canoga Avenue or one of them...it was up in the hills. Now this was a very fancy affair and it was a turkey....

MRS. McCART: Bar-be-que?

MR. McCART: No, not bar-be-que, there wasn't ?

DODSON: A turkey shoot? When they went out together?

MR. McCART: Oh no, no. It's a buffet.

DODSON: Oh, I thought you were meaning that they went out and got turkeys.

MR. McCART: And they had ?Medor...the range people that were the Medor owners. And a lot of others. They all of a sudden were in California and they somehow or another our agricultural people got the ? invitation ? But I remember being out at the coral and they were meeting by these bulls. They were the ones that cost the money of course. And the cows that had the greatest milk production records and there was a considerable gallery of people hanging on to the fence and looking at it. And then three or four people came out and somebody put up their hand and said, "Your attention. I want to introduce to you our guest, the Honorable William Gibbs Macadue, the next President of the United States." And it was William Gibbs Macadue. Well, you know what happened. I don't know ?

DODSON: Harding, wasn't it Harding that beat him.

MR. McCART: No, it wasn't him. Well anyway, let's not go on with that.

DODSON: He was the son of Woodrow Wilson.

MR. McCART: Yes, yes, he was married to the daughter. But anyway we was there. So this was sort of a by-product of ? And then another one I want to tell you about is Jim Jeffries barn. Now I don't exactly...do you know where that was? Was it on Magnolia?

DODSON: I'm not sure. Do you know, Paula?

BOYER: I just read about it.

DODSON: Wasn't it inside the boundary of what's now Burbank?

MR. McCART: I didn't think so. I thought it was more closer to North Hollywood. Well anyway, he had this barn. You know where the barn now, it's Knottsberry Farm and it has the miniature ?show. But at this time there was a thing of hosting and freezing cattle. ? I never saw Jim Jeffries...he never showed. But anyways, it was his barn. And it was his bull. He had sent them from the eastern United States he had brought out here a famous bull. Adolph had the money for it. ? I remember that.

DODSON: Sometimes you wonder how they get so famous too?

MR. McCART: But unfortunately he had developed ?crupla on the way out. They would stand in the mud for so long. And he also had had an accident and they had to result to artificial insemination to get his pulse started. But it was the most remarkable animal you could see. He had the softest hair. It was all...

MRS. McCART: Mine has too.

MR. McCART: Yes, it was soft. But we got to see that. And then there was one other ? There was an actor once named Harry Perry.

DODSON: Yes, I know that name.

MR. McCART: Harry Perry had a hog ranch down at Lankershim, North Hollywood, sort of north a little ways somewhere. And I think he had deer out? but they were just grazing some. ? And he had a garbage contract with the city so that you could feed your animals, couldn't you. But anyway that's what they did then. And then the other ? with Harry to know the ?Ridge family owned that and they named that for their daughter Rhoda. Because Rhoda spelled backwards is Adohr.

DODSON: Not the way it comes to me, that's interesting.

MR. McCART: Yeah, that's it. So anyway, that was it. Now the future...I was lecturing to you now but...

DODSON: Well, that's alright, you go right ahead.

MR. McCART: You came here ? that's what I remember ? But anyway.

DODSON: Well you're telling us some things that we haven't gotten from anyone else. So go right ahead.

MR. McCART: At the time the teachers in Van Nuys High School and i presume in the Los Angeles system, were paid from grants from a federal fund which I couldn't find recently but I think it was the ? Act which was an agricultural subsidy of Fred Chaffers.

DODSON: Yes, I think that is correct.

MR. McCART: So these were ? teachers then. The livestock judging ? it just stopped about 1924. When the hoof mouth disease came in.

DODSON: There was quite an outbreak of that in the valley, wasn't there?

MR. McCART: Oh yes. It was a very serious thing. And that crises broke a good many people. I mean you know, people who was in the business. Now, like I say the ? hoof and mouth disease this was a major shock in the city out here. And when they threw up the quarantine lines at the county line, they put in a sort of dips in the road. And there they would put in disinfectant. And your cars had to drive through it.

MRS. McCART: You had to walk through it.

MR. McCART: And if you had to walk...through the thin layer.

MRS. McCART: There was one right up here at the top of Santa Susanna pass where Ventura County is in.

MR. McCART: Or if you go east of the county line. Now see the Los Angeles Dairy at Panorama City, that is the city is built on ? land, had a large herd that became infected. And they took steam shovels out there. Now I don't literally if they were steam or not. But ? anyway it's a good machine and dug a tremendous pit at a slant going down into it. And they drove that herd down in there and riflemen stood on the banks and shot the cattle down, killed them right there. And then they

brought dump trucks of lime and they dumped that on the middle and the top there. ?

DODSON: Did the government compensate the dairymen at that time?

MR. McCART: As I recall it, I don't remember too much about that but I think they did. It was a catastrophe. And I don't know whether it was a direct confrontation or whether ? I'm not quite sure what happened.

MRS. McCART: You see I lived across the street from that on Van Nuys Blvd. I could them with the guns. We had a black cat who would keep the mice down. They had hit the cats and dogs.

DODSON: Oh, they were subject to this too?

MRS. McCART: Anybody within a certain area see the cat, usually he had walked over.

MR. McCART: It wasn't that they would be infected but that be crawling around.

MRS. McCART: They might be carrying it.

MR. McCART: Then they had inspectors bring all over everywhere. The inspectors would come out to our cows and I can't remember now, how they could tell if they had it or was about to, but I think there was an injection of some kind, where they could see if it showed up they could be see as if it was going to their heart. Now out at the Ador Dairy which I mentioned several times, they had a large field of corn growing ears for silo. So you would chop it up and feed it and keep it in your silos. They had men out there with shotguns roaming that field shooting any birds that came over.

DODSON: They were desperate.

MR. McCART: This was a desperate situation. People were scared to death. And they also had armed guards at the gate and when the delivery trucks would come to pick up the milk, they had brought it out to the gate and they wouldn't let those trucks come in. Because they might have been somewhere else and bring the disease in the truck. So they'd bring it up there. They also refused to let the state inspectors in. They said, "You're going from place to place where there's cat disease and things." And so they had a big legal hassle over there. And so far as I know they

never got an inspector on that farm and they never got the infection either. So that was a kind of an exciting thing at the time.

DODSON: Yes and I can imagine quite a disastrous thing for the dairies.

MR. McCART: Oh yes. Finally about 1925 ?

MRS. McCART: I suppose you've been told about the floods?

DODSON: We've heard something about them, yes. Were any of these dairies bankrupted by the hoof and mouth disease?

MR. McCART: You know it's too far back...

MRS. McCART: Wasn't the Los Angeles Dairy? You know I can't remember.

MR. McCART: I think the Los Angeles Dairy went out of business there.

MRS. McCART: That was the one in the Panorama area.

MR. McCART: But I couldn't say that for sure. Anyway I don't remember much about it. Maybe I never knew about

it either. But in this flood business there's one thing I remember...two things about the climate here which I never seen until I came here. One was the dust storms. When these Santa Ana winds would come through here with this all this acreage with the dirt clouds and heralds and so on. They would just swoop across. And the first one I ever saw was there at Van Nuys High School. You could hardly...well you couldn't see clear across the campus.

MRS. McCART: You couldn't see the trees.

MR. McCART: I'm telling you. I can remember walking into the wind that it was so strong that you sort of pushed your way along. And Adolph Nordsville, who was the early ? at one time or another here in Van Nuys, told me a story that one time that a great wind storm came up with this tremendous dust and parenthetically when they were trying to sell the land out here and bringing out here people in buses when they were trying to sell the land. When they got one those kind of things they can't do anything until the weather got better.

DODSON: I can imagine they wouldn't want to bring them out if it was like that.

MR. McCART: But Adolph Nordsville, because he was here. He had you a story and ? So he didn't go home I guess for 24 hours. Then he decided he would go anyway, after all he could kind of grope his way along. He only lived maybe two or three blocks off Van Nuys Blvd. and he had go clear through along Van Nuys Blvd. I'm not quite sure of the location. But feeling the curb and so on he got pretty well along until he came to a vacant lot and he thought he could make ? alright but he didn't feel that, I remember they had been digging a cess pool and into this he fell. And it was not completed but it was deep enough so he couldn't reach the top to pull himself up. And so...let's see, what did he have...he had a 2x4 and it wasn't quite long enough to actually jam in until he could stand up and he couldn't seem to dig in to make a step out of it. And he tried and tried for several hours and finally he just quit. And after all you don't have...? the dust bowl there until somebody else came by. And somebody else came to it.

MRS. McCART: I think so. I can't remember just how he got out.

MR. McCART: And fell in too. But the two of them were able to work together and stand on each other and so on

and get one out and get the other one out. But the water of course was thing that had ? the most. We were out here on Ventura Blvd. and it was a two lane road, one way in each direction. ? But no were no stores and ? areas anyway. There's nothing like the Sepulveda damn or anywhere around ?? the first year. It ran down out of the canyons and it would rise on the boulevard just about in the middle. ? at Woodman. And it couldn't stay on the south side of the road. Because when it filled up there you couldn't stand across the boulevard and it ran down to about our place and turned south. And in a few hours erosion was ridiculous. Maybe 15 or 18 inches deep and the water was still rolling. And I remember my father and I would get out there with shovels and he had some good rain gear that he had when he was a leader. By the way it helped ? if you got there ? and we were grabbing boards and stuff and trying to bring them up and put them across these ditches and fill the dirt on the edge of that to divert the water going down the street. And we got it going alright and finally the rain stopped. And then the problem was to get the wheelbarrow and start trying to ? dirt ? and bring it back up where it belonged and in Van Nuys, after one of those rains, I remember we came over in the Model

T touring car and put up at the loading dock of the feed store in the water about a foot deep. But of course those were a Model T wheels were a lot bigger. They were pretty ? and so could wander around in the water ? but this was ? watch the stuff floating down the street.

MRS. McCART: Orange crates and cans.

MR. McCART: There were no flood drains on the ground like there are now and even when I was teaching from 1958 to 1970. Well, I shouldn't of said it that way. From 1958 up until the '60s somewhere I had to cross five streets that had tremendous washes. And you'd ride the breaks and hope...and you'd keep on going and stop afterwards. And then they'd put one down Winnetka and then they'd put one down White Oak and so on. They were wonderful, they were really really working. I remember in...when we were out here and I was ? in about 1939 there were really big floods and it seemed like all the valley was a wash from Canoga Park down to Encino.

MRS. McCART: It must have been the big one. ? '30s...

MR. McCART: Well, it wasn't '38.

MRS. McCART: The year before we came out.

MR. McCART: Yeah, well it wasn't that one. Because the next year it was another one. I remember that one too. But there were three or four boys from Encino who were going to Canoga Park High School and they managed to take a raft of some kind and without any holes they went maybe three or four miles on this pulling themselves along before they ran a ground on a higher peak and they were surrounded with all this water. And then someone ? came to their rescued them. And then there was this ?convention but there eight boys ? that ? where actually houses were washed away.

MRS. McCART: Someone must have told you about that in North Hollywood.

MR. McCART: Where the houses along Oxnard, east of Van Nuys, were filled up to about three feet with silt and so on. And Allen McKiney, a young fellow we knew ? drove up and was going through the water and ? this wash...

MRS. McCART: That was near Universal City, the Universal Studio.

MR. McCART: And they were drowned. So this water...and in our own place up on the ? early...I don't know how many years ago they had put Saticoy Street at the bridge level that the engineers figured it could be but they had not lowered Van Nuys Blvd., until it was about 3-1/2 feet higher on Van Nuys Blvd. that ? Of course, then they had to swim to get your car up it. But when the floods would come down that wash you'd have to cross back there...? but it's under control now. But every time it would blocked up with weeds and logs and all kinds of stuff at the Saticoy under pipes and then the water would come up and run down Saticoy. When it got to Van Nuys Blvd. it had to turn south.

MRS. McCART: It just ran across all those corners.

MR. McCART: It went across the corner and this house where my parents lived and we had bought from ? and of course it filled the basement of that house and it followed into the next street and it went on down Van Nuys Blvd. and right down Van Nuys Blvd. They use to have sand bags of course on there and as late as the '20s ?

MRS. McCART: It flooded all of Van Nuys. ? No, this was about '49...about '49.

MR. McCART: This was the year that the gas company finished their building on the east side of Van Nuys Blvd. and that basement filled completely and J.C. Penny's basement.

MRS. McCART: It ran right down the middle.

MR. McCART: And there was a number of stores, well the water came right over the sand bags and came on in, including the Security Bank and this store, ? Cunningham. ? He was working in the bank at the Security...it's Pacific now but then it was Security First National Bank but anyway the same bank...and he went in there to see how things were getting along, because he had worked I don't know 40 years or something like that and the water was inside the bank. And it's coming up and left at the files and so on. So he worked all night and his wife came down. And they raised the files and they moved the stuff and saved all the records and this was as I say about ? high.

MRS. McCART: And the next morning when they came out to see how much damage. You see they had already repaired Van Nuys Blvd. It had already been put down the proper levels so that we didn't quite get water till it backed part way up. But on the west side

of the street facing north was a big fire engine, the hook and ladders and he had tried to go to a fire on the west side of the street, though the street was divided because he couldn't get on the other side and he was stuck in his van. It took them several days to get him out. And that was '49 about '49.

MR. McCART: Anyway, all of us ? Has anyone told you about the San Franciscito Damn. ?

DODSON: The one ? someone spent. Now you were here, yes? At the time?

MR. McCART: Yes I was here at the time. I wasn't personally involved in the thing but the ROTC from Van Nuys High School went up to look for bodies from, oh let's see...the Castaic Junction down to Fillmore in Santa Paula.

DODSON: Well, now nobody has told us about that phase of the floods?

MR. McCART: My brother was still in school then and he went with them. And what they did...of course you know the weather was fine...it was just that the damn had collapsed. So they sent these fellows and

many others volunteered out for about you know four or five feet apart and they gave them a couple of lamps and they walked right down across those orchards and the fields where the water now had begun to deposit. It had gone that far, it had spread out more and wherever they found an arm sticking out or a foot or a head or something...they'd stick a stick and go on. And then the digging crews would come along that route. And Johnny Freezewater, John Freezewater who's father was an undertaker here and he could ? undertaking his own life and his sons are now running the ? Canoga Park and Van Nuys. John Freezewater and the boys was up there on that ? for about 4 or 5, 6 days for as long as that was on. And it was to be quite a shock here because originally people here knew some of the people at least. You know that was the only all concrete damn that the Department of Water and Power had ever built. And of course they never built another ? And ? were up there not too long ago and I was always curious about that period. I remember shortly after ?..I mean before the damn broke I use to take hiking groups out of the boy scout camp over the north canyons, as I mentioned earlier, and we hike over, we went to the reservoir and we'd come back. And then shortly

after that I was up in there ? and you could see clearly where the water had washed all the dirt loose up here and the brush and everything at a certain heighth when it was coming through that canyon before it spread out. And so about two months ago we went up to look around and there was still great chunks of concrete up there. ? I don't know ?

MRS. McCART: They were very ? with Van Nuys went up there. Land was sort of a soup kitchen type of thing. Well, the family had lost their homes.

MR. McCART: But you know it had been ? it got so many people involved in it.

DODSON: Is that close to Newhall?

MR. McCART: Yes. They used the church in Newhall for a temporary morgue.

MRS. McCART: In Newhall?

MR. McCART: Because that's where Kevin is the minister up there. He works there. I remember when the Rotary Club that had started. Well the Kiwanis Club everybody ? and so doing the school year of

1924 and 25, I don't know what month it was, the Rotary Club formed and they met at a country club out in Encino, which is now gone. Do you remember the name of it? ? as president. But for some reason they all got in their cars and they went six miles out there to have their meeting. And one of the customs of the Rotary Club in this area for that time was that they would make the Student Body President of the local high schools an honorary member so ? education. And one of the members was J.P. Avis, our principal of the high school and I was the Student Body President at the time. Well he called me in one day and he says, "Now you can be covered with ?" So all your rest of the school year, how ever long that was, I went with him every time. Saw all sorts of ? and heard about them and so on. So finally in below New York I became a ?lieutarian and when I was that executive. So then they went on...let's see...

DODSON: You were able to tell if you were one of the two student voltarians.

MR. McCART: Yeah, that's nice. Then the next year they began having two graduating classes in Van Nuys. They always had one up until the year 1925. And in that year ? they graduated 2 people and of course

1915 they graduated people before, two boys this year and two girls in 1915. But after that the classes were big enough to have regular classes. So the Student Body President then would serve for one semester and I was the last one that rode through for two semesters. And Sandy Pettit was the Student Body President. ? And so that was that group. That was the start of the Rotary Club here that I can remember. And one other thing about the Van Nuys Airport...when they began to build that. Did you have a story that you wanted to...

MRS. McCART: No, I don't. Go ahead.

MR. McCART: When was it about...1930...somewhere in there they ? have it.

MRS. McCART: We came back in '38, between Saticoy, Canoga Park any longer ?

MR. McCART: We had a local general ? project. That was not officially but I mean ? you know. And some people got it with pay and they a got money together ? So George A. Chapman was the contractor and he held a seat...his son George O. Chapman went on to

build a lot of buildings at UCLA for of course a contract, ?

DODSON: Is he still around?

MR. McCART: He is now retired and he has been recently quite ill but he's probably alright now. ? But anyway, his father was the contractor on this. And so he went ahead and he began building buildings and I don't know what all or whether he had the contract on that runway and I don't know about that. ? Pretty soon the finances just fell apart. Hopes were dashed this way and that and Mr. Chapman was left without funds. And it was serious enough to go into bankruptcy and I guess he considered that alternative but the creditors, the people from whom he had bought had heard and so on and they got together and they came to him and they said, "Don't think bankruptcy. We'd rather bet on you and to take a chance on the dollar." So they went ahead and I don't know what it was but after awhile some more money was raised and raised to go on. And Chapman went ahead and over a period of years he repaid every cent to all the people he had owed. It was quite a great story. And George Chapman, Sr., George O. Chapman.

MRS. McCART: You might be interested to know that way back in 1903 my parents sold that house and it was moved off and we built a new one. The people that sold houses nowadays ? don't think too much about it. But that was in 1923 that the house was moved back and sold it to someone. ?

DODSON: That would have been much more unusual.

MRS. McCART: Yes, it was unusual. ?

MR. McCART: On the same seller.

MRS. McCART: It's a little different today.

DODSON: What would you regard as the affect of the Depression on your family?

MR. McCART: Well, my parents were on a full five acres out there and they had this little business of selling produce and so on. And then just kept on doing it and the price was set pretty low but it was a kind of an income and were wiped out as you know, they ate free and my brother managed to get into...well he had begun to work at the service station as I had done earlier and he another fellow with whom he'd gone to school took over somebody's service

station and then they were getting enough to eat. They never got any money or got ahead ? but at least he survived that way. And I played a pretty good ? and I was...I came out of school in June 1930 and I was solvent. I had enough service station jobs and this that and the other and I was pretty ? I'd do it all but I should have keep it in hand. And there wasn't any job anywhere in sight, really. There was a probably doing dishes. I thought I wanted to be ? So I talked to a local man and ? and he said, "Well, if you want to do it. And that there was this course and you had to pay for it. You can go ahead." He said, "There won't be any job open in this region." This was western seaboard states until about eight months, I think there was going to be a job. And he said this was very competitive ? But I had enough clothes. He said, "In a few months," ? I was in pretty good health. So I went to the high school and borrowed $75 from a scholarship fund or student aid fund and that was enough to buy a ticket to New York then. If you sat up all the way and a couple guys ? And somewhere or another I had enough to give to their sons. And while I was still in school an opening had developed in Portland, Maine and the Portland executive came down to the New York to the school and before we

got through I had the job. So I went to work for $160 a month and that was pretty good.

DODSON: Yes ?

MR. McCART: And the depression didn't get us then until '33.

MRS. McCART: But the banks were closed.

MR. McCART: I had $300 ? after we got married. And now bank ? was really getting stores open again. So that wasn't bad in a way. In about what six or seven months or something they had liquidated enough for the assets to pay 50%.

MRS. McCART: Over a period of years he got about 97% of it back.

DODSON: Oh, that was very good.

MR. McCART: For years they'd get $5, or $8...they were very careful about it. Actually the job paid out in Jamestown, New York in 1938. But it wasn't exactly ? they had to put it just furniture to get it through there. It fell all apart. And when they had the furniture show that year instead of selling the $10,000,000 they needed they sold

$200,000. Then you know the factories all closed down. So they actually came out pretty well.

DODSON: Well, it's been my experience on the basis of these interviews that the people in this valley didn't suffer as much as in more industrialized sections. I think the fact that we were an agricultural section primarily at that time helped people get through it.

MR. McCART: You see, my folks were raising practically all their food.

DODSON: That's what others have told us.

MR. McCART: Except maybe flour and a little sugar.

MRS. McCART: See my mother was teaching me ? and people were still buying chickens. We could still afford the feed so I was very fortunate. I think I got along very ?

DODSON: Well, that's been my impression generally in these interviews that this valley was not hard hit if you compare it to other parts of the country.

MR. McCART: To the largest degree we were working for the ?

DODSON: I think that was probably it. They just weren't a big bunch of factories and suddenly they would send a person off after they closed down. Now some of things we got down here on the creative changes in the valley...maybe Mrs. McCartney is interested in changing fashions. You probably noticed quite a bit of change did you not since you were in high school?

MRS. McCART: Yes. Of course, we've had ? I think when you're going back to a similar style of the length of the dress. We've been hurt by it. ? except for the pants suit.

DODSON: That's different.

MRS. McCART: That's different and I love it. I have about three dresses that I don't think I'm ever going to wear out though. But I really enjoyed the new formality. And I, in our travels the last few years, I find it everywhere. ? a party or the church or a wedding, whatever. ? One day I went to the Broadway in a dress because it was a warm day and I think I saw two others I felt very foolish and I came home and put my pants suit on.

DODSON: Is that right? So you think that the change in fashions has definitely been for the better?

MRS. McCART: Well, I do, yes. I think it's more comfortable and satisfactory whenever you wear it. I don't think women could give up dresses completely. Mostly. And of course, we don't wear hats any more. ? Now he's wearing the hats.

DODSON: Well, I wear one myself. We may have the somewhat similar reason.

MRS. McCART: Well, I do meet some of these that still wear hats.

DODSON: Of course, I don't think that men's fashions change very much.

MRS. McCART: No, they don't have cuts on their slacks anymore.

MR. McCART: Well, we went into a period when you couldn't put the pant legs over on ?

MRS. McCART: And he would be glad if the pleat came back at this time I think. I think that would be more comfortable.

MR. McCART: ? we'll get rid of the pump.

DODSON: Yes, those use to collect quite a bit of dirt and that sort of thing. Now as far as the appearance of the valley is concerned, I imagine you've seen tremendous changes.

MR. McCART: In that respect, if we mentioned the ? in 1935. We was gone for a period before we came back, then I noticed many more streets. ? Subdivided. There are many streets that I'd never seen before. Then when we came back after the war period, we'd been gone most of the time, I was astonished at how the people were somewhere you could see so much more trees, much more ? Even with the loss of the fruit trees and the citrus trees and so on. The shade trees in the residential areas had much more brush in them. And many more trees.

DODSON: Did you feel that the valley looked greener than then it had before?

MR. McCART: Yeah, because I keep remembering when I first came here it was very vast open spaces that were sugar beets and lima beans and stuff like that. So much of it when into housing and so many roads places

planted trees that I could see you instead of the trees. That was my personal opinion.

MRS. McCART: It was always a disappointment to me when I see the subdivider came in and cut down all the trees. All trees ? to roads to a certain extent to include some of the trees and they did in some of these areas because you see we still had trees, walnut trees which I think they became 40 or 50,000 years old. And there is quite a bit of area down here that has a lot of trees.

DODSON: Well very often a contractor just won't start building until he has completely leveled the surface now. That happened at our college where we have a number of trees they insisted on knocking down first. We have only a very few of the original trees left now. Can you think of any...

DODSON: Now you were going to tell us about that.

MRS. McCART: Well, of course we still had...the term...quite actually I don't think it was a new term "dragging" because we use to refer to driving up and down Van Nuys Blvd. as dragging the main. And I think that's the term that's used probably all over the country.

DODSON: I don't know? In Colorado that I'm from I don't think we used that term. I never heard it before.

MRS. McCART: Well, it's simply...of course you know Van Nuys was small and you simply drove up and down the street, even my parents would come here, and you'd see your friends and eventually you'd find a spot and you'd park. And it wasn't terrible of course and they all were at an angle and perpendicular and you could friends all go by sooner or later and that took about two hours sometimes and it was always on Saturday night.

MR. McCART: Of course, there's another meaning to drag. And that's the race.

MRS. McCART: That's a race.

MR. McCART: And sometimes you'd drive in and some of these kids raced cars which was another operation.

MRS. McCART: I never did that. But that was always looked forward to as a Saturday night event.

MR. McCART: When I first came here I was much impressed by the sort of a surprise way not necessarily ? oh by jumpers maybe a third or more of the boys in high school wore...I guess they were mostly surplus army britches and leather leggings. And then shortly after that people began to wear a high ridged boot. Now at school and anywhere we went hiking and that sort of thing. I remember that. But of course women's styles as you say, ? skirts get any shorter...they never went down as far as they had been before. At the time I was in Sunday school class and let's see...up at high school and up at college down here I discovered there were quite a few places to go I had seen so many leaves and ? Because it was foolish in the forest.

DODSON: Did you think that was one of the fringe benefits of being a teacher then?

MR. McCART: Well, I don't know if the trees were there just to go to Sunday school. When you finally got that far along...? So I got a pant suit to go...? And the former vice principal you know were kind of fighting. They'd all given up I guess.

MRS. McCART: Well it didn't seem very practical.

DODSON: Well, did they have a strong dress code when you began teaching then and they did forbid the wearing of those?

MR. McCART: And the culottes were a big argument you see. They said, "This is almost a dress. It certainly isn't pants. You must be thinking of a dress." But our vice principal says, "No, ?"

DODSON: To me the culottes is the ugliest single garment. Of course, originally that was for males, clear back in the 18th century and then the females took it over later. But it looks as ugly on then I think is on the males.

MRS. McCART: I don't remember anything specific but I think that when we went to Van Nuys High that there were a few girls that would go a little far in their dress and I think they were always called into the

office and they said, "This is not acceptable and don't do it again."

MR. McCART: Maybe their dress was too short or too tight.

MRS. McCART: Too short or the neckline was a little too low or something like that. I think that it was creating ? like that.

DODSON: Do you think there have been changes in morality and that sort of thing since you've lived in the valley?

MRS. McCART: Oh yes. And I never get use to it.

DODSON: Now you've had a little chance to compare since you were both a student here and a teacher here. Did you see much difference between the time you were a student and the time you were a teacher among your students? Did they act differently in your opinion?

MR. McCART: Yes I suppose so. I guess I was never much impressed with that assumption. You see us teachers always are thinking that things are getting worse all the time. But there was a pretty good group of people, I certainly don't

know what percentage, but a lot them were pretty nice boys and girls. And pretty level-headed but I don't know, I think you have expect some erratic behavior. But it probably feels more permissive in a lot of ways at home and in public then they were in school now than it was. I think it's more the exciting ?

MRS. McCART: Well I think that smoking is more of a common thing now.

MR. McCART: Well yes, that's true.

MRS. McCART: It's a very dare devil thing to do.

DODSON: And of course there were no narcotics in your school at all.

MRS. McCART: No, no narcotics.

MR. McCART: In Van Nuys High School they were used there. They were practically no kids that ? there were alcoholics. ? at least it wasn't common knowledge whether he was using. ?

DODSON: Of course right along with that you've got quite a difference in the criminal situation that you've been in contact with or aware of.

MRS. McCART: Vandalism. I know a few times we had...when we would have a big thing going on like the San Fernando or in Burbank. One time we all went to school, like on a Thursday night, and Friday morning ? and maybe a poster...did they ever paint on the front of the building? On the front...on the administrative building.

MR. McCART: Well, it said San Fernando. They didn't have spray guns, they had to work too hard with spray guns. But that poor gymnasium, which when I was going, oh it was exciting if you painted that...

MRS. McCART: You could always tell.

DODSON: Of course I imagine at that time that created quite a scandal.

MR. McCART: Oh yes.

MRS. McCART: Everybody was called up on the carpet whom they suspected.

DODSON: Well, how about crime in the valley generally? Have you noticed changes there?

MRS. McCART: Well, I don't even go into my backyard without locking my front door.

DODSON: Well, I'd say that's a change then.

MRS. McCART: Before I never even thought of locking it. ? I don't know what I'd do if I ever had problem. But I'm ? When I go to the supermarket and go to my car, even in broad daylight, I try not to go at night. I have a little system where I sit down in the street and let ? comes right down on the lot to meet with me so that he can unlock the car.

DODSON: Do you feel much less at ease then when you first moved into the valley?

MRS. McCART: Oh yes. Because you didn't have to...?

DODSON: Maybe people have told us they never worried about locking the doors at that time.

MR. McCART: Of course there chicken thieves way back in the '20s.

MRS. McCART: Oh yes, we had a problem with that. We never had that, I don't know why.

MR. McCART: Yeah, my father after a while he had an alarm device put on the chicken coup. Where he brought the wiring in there.

DODSON: But you were more afraid for your chickens then for your house itself.

MR. McCART: Yeah, I never had any chance to be afraid or anything or I never expected to get ? property thing. ? Of course, they would ? it with the house. No, no, the personal danger is much more prevalent now I think.

MRS. McCART: We have a small travel carrier that we carry on and we would never think of ? on that to any places separate then. Not a closet area but a regular ? parking area. We wouldn't stay on the side of the road or even in the left area because there's no one there and it would take a while. ?

DODSON: Now in political situations...here again, you've been both a student here and a teacher. How do you feel about the big controversy on busing at the present time?

MR. McCART: Well, it seems like we're trying to cure everything through the school system without being a more...of course, people ? because where people live they depend on schools ?. The schools reflect the population around it. I can't quite see my in my own mind...? the bus system in Los Angeles ?

DODSON: Do you feel the schools are being made sort of the scape goats and in the whole business?

MR. McCART: Well, as long as it's scape goat because we try to use those as a pool to solve all the ? problems.

DODSON: Do you feel maybe they are the easiest things to try to influence or forced to do things?

MR. McCART: Oh definitely.

DODSON: Well, we haven't really found anyone who seemed to be in favor of the busing since we've been conducting these interviews.

MR. McCART: Well, ? I remember school and the neighborhood grocery store and there was bad effects. I remember when I was started in junior high school at Van Nuys Junior High School I remember ? was

near us. Of course we had to move our ? because it wasn't ? And he was much distressed. ?

MRS. McCART: Not only that, but the school down there was new and had nice buildings and they moved him up to Fulton which just had the little cottages and you know had been moved in and was all a temporary thing and he had heard about the whole thing. Of course, he could walk to school from where they lived. But he didn't like that one bit.

MR. McCART: My daddy in his ? why he was ? pick six people up or whatever moves around. I remember the only ? secure you might say, when we were going to move out here to California. Suddenly everybody ? Of course that didn't make any difference. There were other people here ? But I didn't know that at the time. I'm just wondering how many of the individuals were pushed around on the busing. Or feel that there were more.

DODSON: And of course many of these children would be fairly small and it may be a little harder for them to adapt in some ways, being so far from home.

MRS. McCART: And then how safe? about 20 minutes to 35 minutes on a bus. Would they be safer walking to a school or even a mile away then to ride that distance in our heavy traffic? That's also much more expensive. And if we're going to save on fuel. But still I don't see why we cannot have the same standard as education in one school that we have in the others. I don't see why that isn't possible.

DODSON: Well several people I think that we have interviewed have suggested that it would be better to spend the money to include schools than just to pay the expenses of busing. How do you feel on this question of the valley seceding from Los Angeles and becoming a separate city of its own?

MR. McCART: ?

DODSON: Well there again I think you're in line with what everyone else has told us. I've found a great unanimity in this valley. I think no one has taken a different attitude on any of these things from what other people have taken.

MR. McCART: Well, there's a certain number of people who want to be king in their own neighborhood. If you can

have a new city once in awhile, why then you get a whole new set of officials and ? up and down. Give orders.

DODSON: A new set of taxes to pay. Well can you think of any other political question that you feel is important to the valley?

MR. McCART: You know I don't worry much about political questions. We seem to have a habit of growing up and sort of leveling off again without making much difference in the ? what you have it seems.

DODSON: Well, there is of course, the Hollywood/Burbank Airport. I don't whether you feel that you are close enough for that, that influences you one way or the other.

MRS. McCART: We get ? but it seemed to have followed some way.

DODSON: So you do have some planes coming in.

MR. McCART: The course is on the landing pattern that day.

MRS. McCART: And we can tell when the LAX has fog. Because we get more planes.

MR. McCART: Well, there's a ? about it or ? ? operations where you have to have the air transportation and everybody just wants to put it off somewhere else. But I'm far enough away so that it doesn't really bother me, maybe that's why I can live with the thing. But maybe because we need it.

MRS. McCART: Did you notice that when we are out and away on one of our little camping trips, where it's very quiet, I always notice it when we back home but in a few days I'm fine. ? or if I don't fair too well at the times.

DODSON: Well, you're not in the usual flight pattern are you?

MR. McCART: No.

DODSON: It has to be some unusual climatic situation. What would you say is the most important event in the valley history since you've been here?

MR. McCART: Well, the most important event that probably happened ten years before I got here. And that was when they brought water in through the aqueduct because that made it possible the whole thing, either urban or agricultural worth. And

the most important thing that happened since I've been here I think would be the change from agricultural to urban ? ? planning.

DODSON: Well, has that brought you satisfaction in the change or do you rather regret it.

MR. McCART: Oh, I don't regret it. You mean you have to live here, change all the plans. In some ways and of course you know...let's put it this way. ? just so you lived where there were fewer people. But I don't know if I'll make the effort to do it. You know I'm not really excited about it.

DODSON: Some people look back on the days when there were more trees and fields and that sort of thing and think that maybe the valley lost something from their point of view.

MR. McCART: Well yes, that's true but you always lose something to gain something else. And we'd paid a pretty good price for it.

MRS. McCART: Well, we have to grow. We can't help that.

MR. McCART: ? by in large. You just have to ?

DODSON: What about the minority problems in the valley? Have there ever been any in your lifetime here?

MR. McCART: Well not to any great extent because there weren't enough minorities or enough persons to deal with a minority. Of course, ? the chief minority was ? of course as it now, was the Mexican group. And of course they've mostly been the victims of certain things. That is, because they couldn't educate on ? streets ? get a job and so on. And then of course ? Van Nuys and San Fernando had lots of them. The portions of ? people. In the southern ? along the streets in Van Nuys and a few others out but actually there wasn't enough to be very ? Individually they'd suffer and some of the Mexican people were able to adapt themselves and there's some ? who lived here. I guess most of them went to work for the gas company or the Department of Water and Power. With the city encumbrances and there was the Rameriz. Rameriz came up from Mexico and got a job, building the original roads on the...over the Cahuenga pass. Did he tell you about the rattle snakes that they had to contend with if you got off the beaten trail. And his children, they became postal employees ? And the one ? is a television repair man ? And the family after the old man got

through working on roads began doing agricultural work and then began doing those trail crosses where they decided ? had his truck. And then he would sell his...like I was telling you about one of those stands, he had a wagon and he'd put two or three of those down there some ? and so on and pick the ? to where the market was. And so there was some of them who, and they all speak good English. They made a report, ? and of course some of don't, can't read.

MRS. McCART: Now that's one of the things that bothers me. I feel that if you have gone, let's say to a foreign country to live, that you should make an effort to learn the language of that country. Even if it means you're going to speak two languages. One in the home and one in the class. I think that...I don't know that it should be required but I can't understand why you don't ? you know. Because I think mainly ?

DODSON: I was asked the other day whether the Klu Klux Klan had ever been active in the valley? Do you know anything about that? I didn't.

MR. McCART: Yeah, I do.

DODSON: Can you tell us a little about it.

MR. McCART: Alright, let's see...in about 1925 or is it 1926 I can't remember exactly that...there was a little ? and ? the Klu Klux Klan and one of the members was the son of a school custodian, a very nice young people. And several children all very fine but the oldest son, he was in the Klan. ? the Klan's from Missouri where everybody crosses ? But in the ? shirts down here one night in about '26 I was there at an evening service and there were maybe thirty people in the whole congregation you know. ? and the door opened and there for about the second ? and in walked six Klan members in full regalia and they marched down the aisle and sat down close to the front pew, that row of seats, and the minister never batted he eye and he went ahead and had the rest of the song and we had a prayer and listened rather loud. And went ahead and he preached his sermon and as he finished the sermon they all stood up and one of them walked forward and laid an envelope up here in the place. ? and they all walked out. I saw that. So I know there were Klansmen. But I never heard of that they were burning cross here or any other very active ? But there was somebody ?

DODSON: So there were Klansmen here but you don't think they played an very active part in the valley history?

MR. McCART: No, I don't think so.

DODSON: Well, I've never come across it or asked anybody about it, until I was asked about it myself and I didn't know the answer. Whether there had been any activity of that kind in the valley.

MR. McCART: Well, the young man I mentioned didn't deny that he belonged. I think he admitted it even. But anyway I saw the others you know, ? and I was told that they had ? some other ? And I never knew what was in the envelope, whether it was money or aggravation or a warning.

DODSON: Well, apparently then they didn't bother the Catholic residents of the valley then ?

MR. McCART: Not that I ever heard of. Can you ever tried to talk to a ?

DODSON: No, I've never interviewed them.

MR. McCART: ? When the town was started Mr. ?Hotsiche, one of the chief motorists, wanted to use this. And he got a man, Keffer, to come out from William near Pennsylvania.

MRS. McCART: That's Mary Jane ?Keffer.

MR. McCART: And he also got a man out of Missouri a Waldridge ? whose relatives I know from Missouri to come and these two men ? paper. And then Ferdinand, well ? we were here in '21 and the first thing my father did was he'd go over to see Waldridge that he had known in Missouri. So it was prior to '21...it might have been like ? but anyway I'm just not sure. Then Ferdinand went to Stanford University, I forget what he did after a little while and then during the war he was in ? they come out here from London and he ? and then when he came back he ? ? editor and then called publishers. He was a good man. He was a good ? And ? everybody. He just might be interested.

DODSON: Yes, he might be a very good man for us to interview.

MR. McCART: Now, I think he's still with the paper. The newspaper sold you know.

DODSON: That's what I understand, yes.

MR. McCART: And he continued ? you have to retire. He has to be sixty-nine or close to seventy. But he would be a good man to talk to. Ed Corrigan.

DODSON: Well, we'll try to get in touch with him and get an interview with him.

MR. McCART: I'm not the one to introduce you to him. But there are other people with more influence. Now Stanley Pettit be good.

DODSON: Oh yes. He is a member of our Museum Association.

MR. McCART: I think he would be a good candidate to line up all the ?

DODSON: Well, we were going to ask you whether you knew personally any of these early dwellers in the valley and of course Mr. Mendenhol would be one.

MR. McCART: That's one. There's a Perry Davis, who was a real estate man here.

DODSON: I think I discovered that he is deceased now.

MR. McCART: He is, well I didn't realize that. So I don't know who else is left. Charles Mendenhol, Charlie Davis was not a brother to Harry but a relative of some sort and his daughter, Margaret Beavis...let's see I have to look that up...she's here and would be what...and she's a very personable lady and she lives here. That would be a good one.

DODSON: Now is she the daughter of the real estate man?

MR. McCART: No, she's the daughter of a...

DODSON: Brother?

MR. McCART: No, they're not brothers, their some other kind of relationship like cousins. I'm not quite sure what it is. I always thought for years that they were brothers but they're not. ? Now we know the school Paul and Frank Clifton. And ? knew a few of his daughters.

MRS. McCART: Catherine ? Yes, but I didn't know her very well and she's been gone a long time.

MR. McCART: Of course Paul and Frank is gone now from here. Now there's some Holloways around here somewhere.

Burt Holloway was a big business man here and he had ? pastures.

MRS. McCART: Are you thinking of Lois? Holloway.

MR. McCART: No, I wasn't thinking of her. I was thinking of one of the boys. You see before Holloway bought his ? and then a few others.

MRS. McCART: I don't know where they live now.

MR. McCART: Well I think in the valley they could be found. ? Now Ernie Gibson was postmaster here for many years and his father before him was the first postmaster down here. I remember ? and went down to work. And Ernie's son, Robert, is still here. He lives ? Have you interviewed Robert Gibson?

DODSON: No.

MR. McCART: Well, you see he has a grandfather and a father before him. And he grew up here and he's about maybe 50 years old, Robert. He isn't a ? pioneer but he's... ? father's were a family that owned most of the property along the north side of Ventura Blvd., between Van Nuys Blvd. and ? they were big land holders.

DODSON: How would you spell that name?

MR. McCART: I know. Very... ? Well, he's about three years than the younger one. I told the story from Adolph Nodsville. His son lives somewhere around, Don? ? Now there was another man here first who owned the corner that our...the east corner from Van Nuys Blvd. to Vanowen and...

MRS. McCART: He is a banker.

MR. McCART: He built up a market in there. He didn't own the market ever.

MRS. McCART: And the family home.

MR. McCART: Family home and he ran a service station. ? But ? but a daughter down in ? Did they mention Emilio Vanoni.

DODSON: We have interviewed him.

MR. McCART: Oh, have you. Good. It occurred to me and I thought of it but he would give you a good one. Now I haven't talked to Emilio Vanoni in 58 years and wouldn't remember me. But he was an important young fellow when I was in high school.

MRS. McCART: What about Mrs. ? You know him pretty well, don't you now. You use to speak to him.

MR. McCART: You ought to wait a little while on him. I don't when they came but he went to part of the grammar school in the years before I was. We were same age but ?

MRS. McCART: He was in his class. He and his wife were both in that class and we are the four people out of that class. I remember that.

MR. McCART: Yes Vanoni. And his wife was truly a ? And her father I met him on Sherman Way and ? He sold ? He came from Belgium. And his brother was in our class.

MRS. McCART: Only within the last year ? that they cleared around the old house. ? and it's just about where Sylmar. Where Sylmar comes in to Sherman Way, just about in that area.

MR. McCART: ? ? Now he's been here since quite a ? She worked here as secretary for the postmaster.

MRS. McCART: She worked at the high school, didn't she?

MR. McCART: She was a clerk at the high school for a number of years. Well, I'll tell you what you might do. I can look up these names and get addresses.

DODSON: Fine. I would really appreciate it very much.

MRS. McCART: You never know ?

DODSON: That's right, that's exactly right. Do you know of any historic sites or buildings or monuments here in the valley that we should know about?

MR. McCART: I doubt if I know of any that you don't already know but do you know where the monument is down at Cahuenga Pass commemorating ?

DODSON: De Campo De Cahuenga?

MR. McCART: De Campo De Cahuenga.

DODSON: Yes we've been there.

MR. McCART: And of course you've been to San Fernando Mission.

DODSON: Yes.

MR. McCART: How about the Encino Hot Springs?

DODSON: Yes, we've been there.

MR. McCART: Alright. Well those here ? a mile or so from where we lived out there. And they had this big reservoir of water over the ? and one night we all went up there when we heard that there was a moving picture being taken. And the heavy great lights. ? and sort of gondola affair with the Peruvian slaves and all. The beautiful princess, you know a lot ? and I've forgotten what happened but they didn't plan on the barge sinking. And when it begins to go down they cut the camera...they didn't want that in there. And they had to push the thing to the shore. I always remember that. Well, let's see...you've been out to see the older oaks in Placerita Canyon.

DODSON: Yes.

MR. McCART: And the oil wells in the refinery out there. And Fremont Pass and all that.

DODSON: Paula has seen that. I haven't seen the Pass yet.

BOYER: I gave him my map, he's got it now.

MR. McCART: And the Calabasas Stage stop?

BOYER: That's the one nearby the ? the valley. Isn't it right there?

MR. McCART: No, Internal Valley out in Calabasas.

DODSON: The ? will be there.

MR. McCART: Now that you mention it, I'm not sure it's the same one. I thought it was a wooden village. Well, probably not, it's probably the stage stop that they ? adobe then.

MRS. McCART: What was there at Agoura? Was there something there?

MR. McCART: I don't remember. I don't know what you look for ? but when they started to make Van Nuys a number of them used white bricks, glazed white bricks. And this Ford Mobile Agency now gone with it bricks and the front of the ? factory that was white brick and the Van Nuys Hotel. A little rundown ? place now. They built a bar down on one side of it...but that's still standing and it's still white brick and it's still called the Van Nuys Hotel ?

DODSON: What is the exact location of that place?

MR. McCART: I guess it's on the...the west side of the street...now the streets beginning with ? on the other side and then there's Calvert. Delano...I think it's between Calvert and Delano but if not they're within a block of it.

DODSON: And this is one with the white brick?

MR. McCART: Yes. The First Presbyterian Church was built of white bricks, the same thing. And they tore it all down and of course you go down to ? church and he built that. Then there was another hotel with white brick across the street from the old library building in Van Nuys. That was at the corner of Sylvan and Vesper I think it's on the corner. But you can't tell it any more because somebody moved in a good many years ago and with a sandblasting machine and he took all the finish off and he painted brown I think. Well, it was a hotel. ? No, it's on Sylvan Street, it goes there. One of the people who had owned this for the last 30/40 years or something I think just died or he sold it.

MRS. McCART: Yes, at Vesper and Sylvan and where the old library is.

MR. McCART: The last several years I've looked in it once and awhile, of course the lobby is about ? And it's standing ? of the furniture. And now somebody told me awhile ago that somebody was now who had bought it and we're thinking about opening it up as a hotel again.

MRS. McCART: Yes, they rented that one out for 50 years.

MR. McCART: But the white brick buildings were definitely characteristic of Van Nuys, they were.

DODSON: Well were those bricks painted white then.

MR. McCART: No, they're glazed.

MRS. McCART: No, there's a glaze on there.

MR. McCART: I don't know what they put in to begin with or where they get the glaze.

MRS. McCART: It's like a ceramic glaze.

MR. McCART: And the ones she had in here had no holes in it.

MRS. McCART: They didn't have any holes in it but we do have some of them that do.

MR. McCART: Some of them had three holes so that ?

DODSON: There just the usual color on the inside but it displays it...oh, is it all the way through.

MRS. McCART: No, that was all white.

MR. McCART: They were gray tile...clay. But on the outside it's a little whiter than inside. But it's all off white.

DODSON: Well, I wondered if it was just an ordinary red brick with a white glaze to it?

MRS. McCART: No, shall I get it again? I'll get it.

MR. McCART: You can see where it's been cut. I mean you won't see the center of it but you'll see the color of the side of where it was not glazed. You can see it's white. Most of the Van Nuys' landmarks are gone. There are some houses that have been here I guess for the whole period. But the stately Whitley house is gone.

MRS. McCART: It almost seems white. You can see here where on the glaze it's kind of smeared down over it.

MR. McCART: I've seen broken ones when they were tearing this building down and they just look about like this.

MRS. McCART: But it's about the size of a regular brick. It's very heavy. I have no idea what they...could have used plaster cement on that. How would they get it white like that?

MR. McCART: Well there is place ? you see all kinds of things. I don't know what they used. I never saw any of those.

DODSON: Well, it's rather new to me. That's why I was asking you whether it was just something put on the outside of the red brick?

MR. McCART: I don't know. Maybe somebody could pursue that and see what kind of a story it was.

MRS. McCART: Do you think the hotel still have brick.

MR. McCART: I could provide a brick. I have another one.

MRS. McCART: Yes, if you want to put it in your museum.

MR. McCART: If you go into that sort of thing.

MRS. McCART: Yes, because there was so many of them used. We thought it was a such a shame when they tore down the Presbyterian Church to build new one. They just let people come in and take them. And I maintain you're always one of those ? I thought they could have sold them for $1.00 a piece as souvenirs. Because we have about five or six and we kept several to...gave several to people that had moved away from Van Nuys that had been long time members. We gave them to the ?

DODSON: Every once in awhile something like that is done. Now I have a match box made out of timbers from Lloyd Nelson's flagship.

MR. McCART: Oh really.

DODSON: The founder. The British keep that in commission. They commissioned all admirals on the decks of the flagship, Nelson's flagship.

MR. McCART: Oh yes, the Nelson ship.

DODSON: But you see that was a wooden ship and as a piece of wood drops it has to be replaced. They take that piece that they've take out of it and make something out of it.

MRS. McCART: No kidding.

DODSON: Such as a wooden match box. So it that way they have a little income from the ship which I suppose is enough maintain it, I don't know. Well do you think of any events or antidotes that we haven't asked about at all that should be recorded?

MR. McCART: ?15 I think. You were familiar with the kind of pipes and sand pipes that are used in early aviation systems here?

DODSON: No, I'm not.

MR. McCART: Well, they were a concrete product. Just regular pipe. Because you see they never put pressure, I mean great pressure on the system and then as they would run across it the field they would set in a sort of a oval vessel that connected to the pipe below and the oval concrete thing with this open top had a number of holes, maybe six or eight, and in each hole there was embedded a little metal tube with a flat section on the side and then a little gate would slipped down there. That's the way they cleaned the ? and to get the water in there they reached down and took hold of a large threaded valve that would shut the water off from

below or let it flow up into the pan itself. And as a safety factor every few hundred feet they would have a sand pipe they called it. Now this would be a pipe about ? across and they would go up higher than the water would ever pump...with this it was mostly it seemed it was maybe 4, 5 or 6 feet, every center they'd be a higher ? And there was no valve or anything on that because as the water builds up its pressure it instantly rise in this sand pipe. And the object then was not to turn it on at the main valve which we ? in the street somewhere. Not to turn it on enough to let it flow over if they did, it would simply run up over the tank sand pipe and run down on the outside. And this way you never broke up the cement pipes that were under the ground. And they still had a son Herald taking care of ? here. Now Zanzero was the Spanish word for water and something like that. And his specific job was when the farmer was ready for irrigation he would go over to the water company and tell them I want irrigation such and such time and they'd go up and they'd say, "Yes, that's how I should have it put in." And his son Herald would come out and turn it on. And he'd turn it off or he'd also was sort of a ? between the company and the people in the office or people and the farmers.

BOYER: Did you have any trees out in Encino.

MR. McCART: Oh yes.

BOYER: I couldn't remember.

MR. McCART: Oh yeah, that's where we had ? Now you would have followed the change of street names, I guess.

DODSON: We've come across a number of them. And the changes that were made.

MR. McCART: Of course, Victory you know was Leavesdale Street.

DODSON: I didn't know what it's original name was.

MR. McCART: Yes, it was Leavesdale and it was changed simply because they wanted to make a big plan on another street clear across the valley called Victory and it hooked up to Van Nuys here. Now Chandler Blvd. now south of Van Nuys was east Sherman Way when the street through the middle Van Nuys was Sherman Way.

DODSON: Yes, we have an old real estate map that shows that as East Sherman Way.

MR. McCART: Van Nuys Blvd. in the town is still what it is. Now I think it was Magnolia Street that was called El Nido or El Nedo depending on whether you pronounced the Spanish or not.

DODSON: No we didn't know that.

MR. McCART: Nido. Well I'm not dead sure it's Magnolia but I think probably the City Engineers in Van Nuys would have a map to show that. Sepulveda Blvd. across the valley area was originally Saugus Avenue and when I use to plant potatoes down the side up there, it was a gravel road. And there is still a segment of Saugus where it goes up into edge of Sherman Oaks area of Sepulveda. But they changed this name here, the street name of Sepulveda because they were bringing it up to Sepulveda Canyon this whole big...

DODSON: I see. So it would just be a continuation.

MR. McCART: Yeah, so it would be a continuation. So those are street names. I think we mentioned one name that I told you I couldn't write down, I think it was Sepulveda I guess. Reseda of course was Marion, that was the name of the town. And Owensmouth was Canoga Park as you mentioned. And North Hollywood

as mentioned was called Lankershim. And Sepulveda this area right here was called Mission Acres. So that it had some name changes and there are probably a few more there. But I can't think of them now.

DODSON: I don't think I've come across that expression Mission Acres before.

MR. McCART: That was a little subdivision and it was out about, where would it begin here...it'd be where Chase or Parthenia...maybe down this far this way and...

MRS. McCART: About where that road turns...it makes the turn before it comes to Van Nuys Blvd.

MR. McCART: Yeah, so that was history.

DODSON: Do you recall what Tarzana was called before it got the name Tarzana?

MR. McCART: Now let me see, there were two or three projects out here in the valley. The companies moved in and bought the land and then they built a little house at one end and attached to that would be a chicken ranch and the whole thing was ? Now one

of them was Long Acres and I almost think they might have been the one that was built with Tarzana was one. But I'm not quite sure. You'd have to look it up. And then there was another set project out beside Winnetka Avenue on the east side and up above...well let's see...where would that be?

MRS. McCART: Maybe Runnymeade?

MR. McCART: Yeah, I guess that was called Runnymeade out there. And of course there was a Runnymeade Street.

MRS. McCART: And they raised the chickens out there.

MR. McCART: And out there, there are a few of those houses still standing with their attached chicken houses.

DODSON: That could be rather interesting.

MR. McCART: Yeah, I think you could find a good, again at Sherman Way and go north about a mile or two and then begin to look. I think it's still there, some of it. And it was a project like that as I

recall it, but not the same company that was built where Tarzana is.

MRS. McCART: You know if you drove around on the other side of the airport and find Runnymeade Street and follow through there, you would come right through. Runnymeade is on the other side of Valerio, it's the first street right after Valerio. If you get on the west side of the airport, it would be about Havenhurst and look for Runnymeade and you'll find...

DODSON: Well, was there a district named Runnymeade too.

MRS. McCART: Well, yeah I think so, wasn't there?

MR. McCART: Yeah, the...I don't know about that.

MRS. McCART: It was a little subdivision.

MR. McCART: I think they called it Runnymeade. It was houses. Now it's Winnetka of course but that's the later name.

DODSON: Now I wonder where the name Winnetka came?

MR. McCART: I don't know where it came from. But I had a little girl in class who was rise up every time and she'd think somebody called her...the area out there or Canoga Park. "And this is not Canoga Park, this is Winnetka." But I don't know who told her this.

DODSON: Many of these streets do have rather interesting origins and many we've discovered are named for their settlers in the valley.

MRS. McCART: Like Sepulveda.

DODSON: Yes.

MR. McCART: Well let's see, the name Sepulveda was followed by an accent on the "ul" wasn't it because otherwise it would have been Sep-ul-vada.

DODSON: I don't know my Spanish well enough to know. I didn't study Spanish in school so I didn't know how they would have pronounced it.

MR. McCART: Do you know it. Well I think where Indian age if you know it they accented on the ? I think.

DODSON: Yeah, I just don't know.

MR. McCART: Anyway, I'm sure that Sepulveda accented the name was virtually an accident so that everybody would call it Sepulveda. Of course you don't need to now because of they say that.

BOYER: People from back east come out here call it that.

MR. McCART: Yes, they do. ?

DODSON: Well, did you have anything else that you want to transmit to posterity?

MR. McCART: I should take advantage of it. This would probably be my only opportunity.

DODSON: I don't know about that.

MR. McCART: No, I don't believe I can think of anything else.

DODSON: Mrs. McCartney, do you have something else you would like to tell us?

MRS. McCART: No, I can't think of thing right now.

DODSON: Well, we certainly appreciate the time you've given us. You've been very generous in that respect. We've been here quite awhile and we've

picked up a lot of information so we do appreciate very much.

MR. McCART: Well, I enjoy having an audience. You know, they're a little hard to come by some times.

DODSON: Well, Paula and I loved to be the audience. All we ask is that you let us bring the tape recorder and record what you say to us. So we do thank you very much for it.

You have been listening to an interview with Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth McCartney. The interview was conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson, Curator of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum and by Miss Paula Boyer, Field Deputy to Dr. Dodson. The date is April 27, 1977.

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